What is claimed is:

1. A method for bit swapping, wherein periodically I
   successive bits of a data packet that comprises K bits
5 are mapped onto interleaved bit positions in I
   different bursts, respectively, according to a
   predefined interleaving scheme and a selected
   interleaving depth I, comprising the step of:

10 swapping the value of at least one bit that is
   associated with a respective first bit position m in
   said data packet with the value of a bit that is
   associated with a respective second bit position n in
   said data packet, wherein said respective second bit
15 position n is selected such that n > m holds and that
   the difference n-m is divisible by I.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said swapping
   is performed before, during or after said interleaving
20 of said at least I successive bits.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selected
   interleaving depth I is taken from a predefined set of
   interleaving depths $\{I_1,..,I_R\}$, wherein $I_r \leq I_{max}$ holds
25 for all r=1,..,R, and wherein said respective second
   bit position n is selected such that the difference n-m
   is divisible by I_{max}.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one
30 group of bits is defined within said data packet, and
   wherein said step of swapping is only performed

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if the interleaved bit position, to which the bit at said respective first bit position m in said data packet is mapped according to said predefined interleaving scheme and said selected interleaving depth I, is a characteristic interleaved bit position, and

if said bit at said respective first bit position m in said data packet belongs to said at least one group of bits.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein depending on the modulation scheme, the bits on the characteristic interleaved bit positions suffer from a higher error probability when said bits are modulated, transmitted over a noisy channel and demodulated as compared to the bits on the remaining positions.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein said characteristic interleaved bit positions are the positions j within a burst that fulfil the criterion that (j+1) is divisible by p, wherein p is a predetermined natural number larger than 0.

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein said group of bits consists of a predetermined number L of first bits of said data packet.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said respective second bit position n is selected such that $n-m \geq L$ holds.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said data
   packet comprises the bits of a Transport Format
   Combination Identifier (TFCI) according to a Flexible
   Layer One (FLO) of a GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network

5   (GERAN) in said group of L bits and the bits of a Coded
   Composite Transport Channel (CCTrCH) according to said
   FLO of said GERAN in the remaining K-L bits, wherein
   the K bits of said data packet are mapped onto said
   interleaved bit positions in said bursts according to

10   one of the interleaving schemes and one of the
   interleaving depths I that are standardised for said
   FLO of said GERAN, and wherein p=3 holds.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said step of

15   swapping is performed at least two times for said data
   packet, wherein the respective first bit position m in
   each step is different, wherein in at least one of said
   at least two steps, said respective second bit position
   n is selected such that n=m+N holds, and wherein in at

20   least one of said at least two steps, said respective
   second bit position n is selected such that n=m+K-N
   holds, where N is a predetermined number.

11. A system for bit swapping, wherein periodically I

25   successive bits of a data packet that comprises K bits
   are mapped onto interleaved bit positions in I
   different bursts, respectively, according to a
   predefined interleaving scheme and a selected
   interleaving depth I, comprising:

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   processing means for swapping the value of at least one
   bit that is associated with a respective first bit

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position m in said data packet with the value of a bit
that is associated with a respective second bit
position n in said data packet, wherein said respective
second bit position n is selected such that n>m holds

5   and that the difference n-m is divisible by I.

       12. A computer program product directly loadable into the
       internal memory of a digital computer, comprising
       software code portions for performing the step of claim

10   1 when said product is run on a computer.

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